

Announcement of a second public comment period for a revised study to restore water quality in Knox Creek and Pawpaw Creek in Hurley, Virginia

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on the revised draft "Fecal Bacteria and General Standard Total Maximum Daily Load Development for Knox Creek and Pawpaw Creek" water quality improvement study by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: The Knox Creek "impaired" stream segment includes the entire stream length in Virginia, from its headwaters to the Kentucky State Line. This segment is approximately 16.9 miles long. The stream is impaired for failing to meet the *Aquatic Life Use* based on violations of the general standard for aquatic organisms and failure to meet the *Recreational Use* because of fecal coliform bacteria violations.

Pawpaw Creek is impaired from the Kentucky State Line to its confluence with Knox Creek, about 4.5 miles of stream reach. This stream is impaired due to failing to meet the *Aquatic Life Use* based on violations of the general standard for aquatic organisms only.

The study reports the pollutants impairing the aquatic community and recommends total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, for total dissolved solids (TDS) on Knox Creek and Sediment and total dissolved solids on Pawpaw Creek. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. The study also presents the sources of bacteria contamination and a TMDL for bacteria for Knox Creek. To restore water quality, contamination levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: The development of a TMDL includes a public comment period, including public meetings. The draft document was revised after the final public meeting and it is the revised document that is available for public review and comment. After public comments have been considered and addressed, DEQ will submit the TMDL report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, May 29 to June 27, 2006.

TO REVIEW DRAFT TMDL REPORT: The revised draft TMDL report on the impaired waters is available from the contact below or on the DEQ web site at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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